

blighted areas, a conscientious effort can be made by the community to upgrade or redevelop, if necessary, these areas.

Whiteville's recent entrance into a joint agreement with the Federal Government for Public Housing will help to provide, with little, if any, cost to the town, adequate housing for some of the individuals living in the blighted areas. In addition to this, an application is now being drafted for two-thirds Federal financial assistance in the costly and time-consuming process of redevelopment or renewing these blighted areas. Assuming that this application meets the approval of the Urban Renewal Administration, most of the blighted areas in Whiteville can ultimately be rejuvenated and molded into attractive and useful areas that will be an asset rather than a liability to the citizens of Whiteville.

Although these two programs, Public Housing and Urban Renewal, can do much to eliminate the blighted areas and upgrade housing in Whiteville, there are certain problem areas in regard to housing that these two Federally sponsored programs will not alleviate. Two of these problem areas are indicated below and should be subject to further study.

1. At the present time there are no adequate means of preventing the expansion of the existing blighted areas. The existing codes and ordinances in Whiteville have not been adequate to stop the northern expansion of blight, nor both east and west of the downtown area.
2. Neither the Town of Whiteville nor Columbus County have adequate means of regulating or controlling development in the fringe areas around Whiteville. As a result, numerous residential structures are being constructed in a haphazard and unsafe manner just beyond the corporate limits. As is indicated on the map on page 30, in many areas around Whiteville the number of substandard structures far exceeds the standard structures.